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## SCAG General Fact Sheet

### WHAT IS SCAG?

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the nation's largest Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Council of Governments (COG), encompassing six counties, six county transportation commissions, 191 cities and the region's Native American tribes. As a designated Joint Powers Authority under California law, SCAG is an association of local governments and agencies that meets and confers on regional transportation, land use and other issues of common concern.

### BACKGROUND

SCAG was founded in 1965, when local elected officials from 56 cities and five counties convened to create a regional planning effort for Southern California's future. In 1992, SCAG expanded its 20-member Executive Committee to include a 70-member Regional Council, responsible for helping with new federal and state mandates, as well as to provide more broad-based representation of the region. The current Regional Council consists of 86 members.

### WHAT DOES SCAG DO?

In addition to its designation as an MPO and a COG, SCAG also serves as a Regional Transportation Planning Agency. Under federal and state laws, SCAG is tasked with developing a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and a Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) every four years. Under California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375), SCAG has the added responsibility to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to address greenhouse gas emission reductions as an element of the RTP. SCAG is responsible for implementing the state Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) program on behalf of Southern California. SCAG also conducts extensive growth forecasting which is provided to local governments, including critical land use and demographic data to strengthen their planning efforts. SCAG acts as an information clearinghouse, providing mapping, forecasting, regional statistics and data to members, stakeholders and the general public, upon request.

### HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE AT SCAG?

**General Assembly (GA)** – SCAG is governed by the General Assembly, which annually brings together the official representatives of SCAG's membership and helps set the agency's course for the coming year. General Assembly representatives consider and adopt the SCAG Bylaws and the General Fund budget and elect the incoming President, First Vice President and Second Vice President.

**Regional Council (RC)** – Decision-making occurs through SCAG's Regional Council, a governing body composed of elected officials representing the six counties and 191 cities in the SCAG region. The board also includes representatives from the County Transportation Commissions and the recognized tribal governments. SCAG's policy-making process is guided by the work of SCAG's Policy Committees: Executive/Administration; Transportation; Community, Economic and Human Development; Energy and Environment; and Legislative/Communications and Membership. Members of the Regional Council serve on one Policy Committee for a two-year term. Much of the discussion and debate on the "nuts and bolts" of an issue occur in the Policy Committees and all issues considered by the Regional Council must first originate through one or more of the committees. In addition to Regional Council members, Policy Committees also include members from stakeholder organizations throughout the region.

## QUICK FACTS

### Region-At-A-Glance

- ▼ Six counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura
- ▼ 191 cities
- ▼ 38,000 square miles
- ▼ 18.4 million people (2013)
- ▼ 15 subregions
- ▼ 16th largest economy in the world

### By the Numbers

- ▼ 48.4% of total state population (2013)
- ▼ 14.2 million registered vehicles  
11.4 million licensed drivers (2012)
- ▼ 12,298 total freeway and carpool lane miles / 37,991 road lane miles
- ▼ 5.9 million total households (2013)
- ▼ \$57,835 median household income (2012)

### For More Information

Please visit the SCAG website at: [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov). To schedule presentations and for all media inquiries please contact **Angela Rushen Ross**, Manager of Media & Public Affairs at (213) 236-1809 or [ross@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ross@scag.ca.gov).

# THE SCAG REGION



## ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain a continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated planning process (the “3 Cs”) resulting in a RTP and a FTIP
- Develop a SCS to address greenhouse gas emissions as an element of the RTP
- Develop demographic projections
- Develop integrated land use, housing, employment, transportation programs and strategies for the South Coast Air Quality Management Plan
- Co-lead agency for air quality planning in the Central Coast and Southeast Desert air basin districts
- Responsible for developing and ensuring that the Regional Transportation Plan and the Federal Transportation Improvement Program conform to the purposes of the State Implementation Plans for specific transportation-related criteria pollutants, per the Clean Air Act
- Authorized regional agency for intergovernmental review of proposed programs for federal financial assistance and direct development activities
- Review environmental impact reports for projects having regional significance to ensure they are in line with approved regional plans
- Develop an area-wide, waste treatment management plan
- Responsible for preparation of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- Along with the San Diego Association of Governments and the Santa Barbara County/Cities Area Planning Council, SCAG is responsible for preparing the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Plan



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
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